

NORTHAM,

FEBRUARY 11TH, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth Annual Report on the health of the Rye Rural Sanitary District.

The population of the District, according to the census taken in 1901, was 7,121, and I have estimated it at the same number for 1903.

There were in all 116 deaths during the year in the District, but 7 of the deaths occurring in the Rye Union Workhouse were of persons who did not previously live in the Rural District, so for statistical purposes they are omitted, and we are left with 109 deaths, giving a death rate of 15·3 per thousand.

There were 5 deaths from diphtheria, but these were the only cases of fatal zymotic disease, so the zymotic death rate is ·7 per thousand. In 2 cases diarrhoea was certified as the cause of death, but they were not cases of epidemic diarrhoea.

6 deaths from phthisis giving a death rate of ·84 per thousand which with 1 death from other tubercular diseases gives a total tubercle death rate of ·98 per thousand.

21 deaths from non tubercular diseases of the respiratory organs, giving a death rate of 2·9 per thousand (including 1 case of acute laryngitis in a child).

8 deaths from cancer giving a death rate of 1·1 per thousand against 1·26 per thousand last year—a high cancer death rate.

Influenza was again prevalent in epidemic form in the early part of the year, and was certified as a contributory cause of death in 2 cases, but speaking generally the cases were not of a very severe type.

There were 174 births giving a birth rate of 24·4 per thousand and 19 deaths of children under one year of age, giving an infant mortality of 109·2 per thousand births.

During the year the following cases of infectious disease were notified : diphtheria, 13 cases ; erysipelas, 5 cases ; enteric fever, 1 case ; puerperal fever, 1 case ; four cases of diphtheria occurred in January in Beckley, in the same house where 5 cases occurred in December, 1902, and were obviously due to infection ; two other cases in Beckley in January, 1903, were probably also due to infection from the same source ; as stated in my last Annual Report the sanitary arrangements at the house were defective, but the defect is now remedied. There was 1 case of diphtheria in Brede in January, and 1 in Peasmarsh in February, but in neither case could the origin of the outbreak be traced, and there was no spread of the infection. There were 3 cases of diphtheria in one house in Icklesham in September : the main drain from the house was choked at some distance from the house and this may have given rise to the outbreak : the drain has been put right. There were 3 cases of diphtheria in one house in Peasmarsh in November which were probably due to infection from the cases at Icklesham the mother becoming infected while on a visit to Icklesham, though the case was not notified. The case of diphtheria at Iden in October was probably imported. The cases of erysipelas were of a mild type, and no cause for them

could be found. The case of enteric fever occurred at Winchelsea in May, and was of a mild type: its origin could not be traced. The case of puerperal fever was not fatal, and not associated with any obvious sanitary defect. Measles was epidemic in Northiam in February and the Schools were closed for five weeks. There were no fatal cases. There were no other infectious diseases notified during the year, and no cases of anthrax in animals.

Disinfectants are supplied to each of the village Post Offices so that they may be immediately available in all cases.

Sulphur fumigation of dwellings is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector upon the termination of infectious cases.

No progress has been made with the Conjoint Isolation Hospital for the Urban and Rural Districts of the Rye Union, chiefly owing to the difficulty of arranging for a suitable water supply: but in the event of an outbreak of Small Pox a suitable marquee is available as a temporary Hospital and arrangements have been made for a suitable site on Cadboro Farm, in the Parish of Rye. No arrangement has been made for the admission of cases from the Rye Rural District into the Small Pox Hospital of the Hastings Corporation which is situated in the Parish of Brede.

There are no polluted streams.

There are no offensive trades.

There are no factories, but bakehouses and windmills are included with factories under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and they with slaughter houses have been inspected. I have systematically inspected the District and find that the sewerage systems in Northiam, Peasmarch, Winchelsea and Icklesham are working fairly well. The rest of the District is provided with cesspools. No progress has been made with the Rye Harbour Sewerage Scheme.

With respect to the Rye Harbour water scheme arrangements have been made for getting a supply from the Rye Borough Water Works and I understand that the Rural District Council has accepted a Tender for laying a 3-inch cast iron Main and providing standposts. It is also intended to supply an area comprising parts of Playden and Rye Foreign, including the Union Workhouse with Water from the Rye Borough. With the exception of Winchelsea the rest of the Rural District is dependent upon wells and springs for its water supply.

Byelaws in respect of New Buildings and certain matters in connection with buildings are now in force in the District.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER WYNNE.

To

*The Chairman and Members
of the Rye Rural District Council.*

